

WEATHER.

Cloudy today; tomorrow fair and warmer.
Temperature for twenty-two hours ended at 10 p.m. last night: Highest, 71.9; lowest, 62.9.
Full report on page 5.

The Sunday Star.

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FIVE CENTS.

RAIL AND "BIG FOUR" HEADS IN SECRET SESSION SEEK COMPROMISE ON SENIORITY TO END STRIKE

PROPOSAL TO SUBMIT ISSUE TO ARBITRATION RECEIVED FAVORABLY

Executives to Take Report on Parley Back to President This Morning.

MEETING OF GROUPS FOLLOWS CONFERENCES AT WHITE HOUSE

Secretary Davis and George Christian Present—Both Sides Withholding Replies to President.

The proposal that the seniority issue—conceded to be the sole obstacle to the settlement of the railroad shopcraft strike—be submitted to arbitration by an impartial tribunal was discussed last night by a conference of railroad brotherhood chiefs and railroad executives as a basis for ending the transportation tie-up.

Although no definite agreement on the new proposal was said to have been reached at the conference, which lasted for nearly three hours, both sides were said to have exhibited a "friendly" attitude toward the suggestion.

Meet President at 10 A.M. Today.

The railroad executives already have an appointment to meet with President Harding at 10 o'clock this morning, when, it was said, Mr. Harding would be told of the new situation resulting from the late-hour negotiations, in order that he might proceed from that point with his policy of mediation.

Lack of information as to the attitude which would be taken by the leaders of the striking shopmen to the proposal was said to have prevented the other union leaders from taking a definite stand. It was expected that a report on the proceedings would be made as soon as possible to B. M. Jewell, leader of the shopcrafts, and his associates with a view to obtaining their views.

Brotherhood Leaders Attend.

Among the labor leaders in the conference were L. S. Sheppard of the conductors' brotherhood and W. N. Doak of the trainmen. Secretary of Labor Davis and George Christian, secretary to the President, were also with the conferees when they assembled.

Participants in the conferences who left the meeting room from time to time refused to discuss the proceedings in the slightest degree, asserting that they had been bound to secrecy by a high authority. The meeting was planned to take place without the inconveniences attended by publicity, they said, indicating regret that it had become known to any outside those invited to attend.

The conference was convened at a local hotel with great secrecy following a series of meetings yesterday at the White House in which President Harding talked with members of a committee from the Association of Railway Executives and with a delegation composed of leaders of the railroad brotherhoods who are not on strike.

Replies Are Withheld.

As a result of the day's conferences the replies of both groups to Mr. Harding's last suggested basis for settlement were withheld temporarily, as were also statements explaining the attitude of both sides.

In the labor group at the secret conference tonight were L. E. Sheppard of the trainmen, D. B. Robertson of the firemen and F. A. Burgess of the locomotive engineers. It was reported that Secretary of Labor Davis and George Christian, secretary to the President, had participated to some extent in the discussions.

Continues Mediation Efforts.

A continuation of President Harding's attempt to mediate the railroad strike situation resulted yesterday from personal conferences at the executive offices between administration leaders, the chosen committee of all the railroad executives and officials of railroad labor organizations.

The text of responses from both sides to President Harding's offer of a basis for a settlement, and all statements between the two groups and to keep them separate while certain propositions were raised and considered until some basis of possible agreement developed.

Meanwhile, it became evident, the administration had dropped any intention it may have held of appealing to Congress for legislation that might bear upon the subject. Senators close to the President were given to understand that no request for congressional action would be forthcoming, and that no presidential message to Congress affecting the strike would be transmitted or delivered.

The Department of Justice took cognizance yesterday of the action of train service employees of the Atchafalaya and Santa Fe railroad, which had led to the "stalling" of important through trains, by ordering the federal district attorney in southern California to investigate whether such "abandonment" of trains constituted a conspiracy to hamper interstate commerce. If sufficient evidence was found, the message ordered it presented to a grand jury for finding of an indictment.

The President's determination to push for a mediation of the difficulty was first disclosed in the midst of double conferences which were staged at the executive offices. Nine heads of railroad labor organizations not on strike took to the White House a statement of their own policy toward the strike. Prior to their arrival the response of the seven unions on strike in the railroad service had been delivered at the White House. It constituted, union officers said, a rejection of the President's suggestion that the men go back to work and leave their seniority status to be fixed by the Railroad Labor Board.

The President received the labor group and, after more than an hour's discussion, in which Senator Cummins, chairman of the Interstate Commerce committee, and two cabinet members, Secretaries Hoover and Davis, participated, asked them to step into the cabinet room, while he received T. De Witt Cuyler, chairman of the Association of Railway Executives, and other railroad spokesmen, who bore with them what has been understood to be a conditional acceptance of the same settlement offer.

The first intimation of the request to continue negotiations came when the union group, through L. E. Sheppard, announced to newspaper men that all the prepared statements and the reply of the striking unions would be withheld from publication.

Refusal Held Back.

Speaking for all of his associates, Mr. Sheppard declared that while the strikers' refusal of the final settlement proposal had not been withheld from publication, the newspaper men to consider the seriousness of the situation, declared that the least said about the situation would be better, and said that the union leaders not actually involved in the strike had "told their troubles to the President," and had "sought to use their good advice and service as mediators in the situation." He would not express himself as hopeful, but said that a committee of the non-striking organizations would attend the President's further pleasure.

In the meantime, President Harding was continuing the discussions with the railroad executives, the meeting, that began at 4:30 p.m., lasting until after 7 o'clock.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4.)



HITCH IN PARTIAL COAL AGREEMENT

Lewis Against Arbitration as Favored by Operators' Representative.

OTHER TERMS DECIDED Conferences of Two Leaders Arranged and Committee to Continue Work.

CLEVELAND, August 12.—Whether an agreement providing for a part settlement of the soft coal strike will be reached at the conference here of operators and miners hinged tonight apparently on the opposite stands taken as to arbitration of future disputes by President John L. Lewis of the miners and Michael Gallagher, who had been designated as an arbitrator for the operators.

Mr. Lewis had declared his unalterable opposition to compulsory arbitration, which was favored by Mr. Gallagher. All other questions of an agreement were understood to have been decided by them, including a provision for re-establishing the wages and working conditions that prevailed when the strike began last April 1.

Conferences Arranged.

While the meeting of the joint subscale committee of operators and miners had adjourned until Monday, it was learned that conferences in the meantime had been arranged for the two leaders, who had been expected to agree on a report that would be submitted to the subcommittee Monday. Only the question of arbitration was said to be disagreed on by them.

Mr. Lewis was said to have agreed to appoint to a commission of inquiry, with purely advisory powers, his proposal being similar to that embodied in the Crews-Glasgow agreement, which had been suggested early in the week as a basis for settlement of the strike on possibly a national scale.

Meets Pennsylvania Owner.

Aside from conferences with Mr. Gallagher, the miners' president met with Thomas H. Watkins, a big operator in central Pennsylvania, who was understood to be willing to open negotiations with the union for an immediate settlement of the strike at his mines. Mr. Watkins was understood to be willing to insist on compulsory arbitration, but neither he nor Mr. Lewis would make any statement.

The meeting of the subscale committee, which named Mr. Lewis and Mr. Gallagher to work out a possible agreement, was marked today by an agreement that the conference here of operators and miners was "in no sense a four-state conference." This was said to have cleared the way for further negotiations, with indications now favoring a final decision on Monday as to whether an agreement will result from the conference that began last Monday. When the committee adjourned today both sides expressed hope of a settlement.

MCCRAY GOING TO OHIO.

INDIANAPOLIS, August 12.—Gov. McCray said today that he may go to Cleveland, Ohio, where miners and operators are attempting to negotiate a settlement of the coal strike.

CORK GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS ON FIRE, LIVERPOOL HEARS

LIVERPOOL, August 12.—Persons arriving here from Cork today stated that the government house and other buildings in the city are burning. Others reaching here from Queenstown report that some official buildings in that port are on fire.

STREET CAR STONED BY COLORED GANG

Fight Precedes Attack at Park Road and Georgia Avenue.

Thirty-five men and women passengers of a street car on Georgia avenue were in danger of serious injury late last night when a half dozen or more colored men hurled stones and other missiles through the windows of the car. That no one of the passengers sustained any serious injury was due, it was explained later, to the fact that they crouched up in the floor during the attack.

The disorder took place at a point near Park road, a short distance from the tenth police precinct and several policemen hurried to the scene. The attacking party fled at their approach and no arrests had been made at a late hour.

According to the version given by the police the trouble started when the car stopped at Florida and Georgia avenues, going on its uptown trip. Luther L. Stanton, a soldier patient at Walter Reed Hospital, is alleged to have boarded against a colored man on the rear end of the platform when he was attempting to enter the car. A fist fight followed, and when a number of colored men standing on the street made an attempt to board the car to take a hand in the encounter the conductor closed the doors quickly and rang the bell for the motorman to speed up. A group of the colored men on the street are said to have jumped in automobiles in which they followed the car. When the latter came to a stop near Park road the men in the automobiles alighted to the street and began their attack.

Stanton sustained a broken leg during his altercation with the colored man on the car. He was taken to the tenth precinct station and later was treated at the Emergency Hospital. His opponent fled from the car before it left Florida avenue.

PARIS, August 12.—Maj. Oscar Westover, the American pilot, made a forced landing on August 7 at Csorotnek, Hungary, when peasants seized the drag rope and insisted on waiting for the country constable to pass upon the legal aspects of the flight, according to the account sent by the American pilot tonight. He had descended from an altitude of 12,000 feet because of decreasing wind.

Maj. Westover's landing was made at 9:35 o'clock last Monday morning. In his account the American balloonist said that when the wind died down at the 12,000 feet altitude the balloon was carried off its course and he immediately decided to seek a lower level, where he observed that the wind was good and eastward, as was desired.

He lowered the drag rope so as to obtain an advantage in wind without the loss of height. After the rope

DEATH OF GRIFFITH STUNS COLLEAGUES

None Prepared to Discuss Effect of Loss on Free State Cause.

IRISH IN AMERICA MOURN Advocates of Both Republicans and Provisional Government Honor His Memory.

DUBLIN, August 12.—Dublin was shocked early today to learn of the sudden death of Arthur Griffith, president of the dail eireann, and every where it was commented on as one of the most tragic and wholly unexpected events in troubled Ireland.

Death came at a nursing home, apparently from heart attack, following an operation a few days ago for tonsillitis. Few people in Dublin even knew that the ardent worker for the Free State cause had been ill. Immediately signs of mourning were displayed; flags were set at half staff on buildings and at half mast on ships in the harbor.

The first question on all sides was what effect the death of the leader would have on the solution of the problems before the provisional government. His colleague, Michael Collins, recently has devoted his attention almost entirely to the military operations against the irregulars, while the country looked to Mr. Griffith to manage the civil affairs until the rebellion was suppressed.

Though president of the dail eireann, Mr. Griffith held no ministerial portfolio. William Cosgrave, minister of local government, acted as head of the Irish executive during Mr. Griffith's illness.

The president's associates were stunned by the news of his death. Not one of them was prepared to discuss its effects, but they all agreed that Ireland had sustained a great loss.

MOURNING AT NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, August 12.—News of the death in Dublin today of Arthur Griffith, one of the founders of Sinn Fein, and president of the dail eireann, was received with dismay by Irishmen.

They replied in German. After sufficient explanations had been given they allowed the balloon to proceed. Much gas had been lost while the balloon had been held by the peasants against the wind. Maj. Westover was forced to discharge his ballast in order to ascend.

After gaining a slight altitude and obtaining a good breeze before the rope had left the ground, the balloon was stopped again by another large group of peasants. Again gas was lost, and despite all appeals the balloon was held. Another series of explanations was repeated and finally another start was made, but with difficulty, as the balloon was continuing to lose gas and the discharge of its valuable ballast was inevitable.

PLAN FOR HUGE CUT IN REPARATIONS IS SHOCK TO FRENCH

British Proposal to Cancel Two Billions May Disrupt London Parley.

CONFERENCE IS HALTED BY WRANGLE ON TERMS

With Next German Installment Only Two Days Off Agreement Is Doubtful.

LONDON, August 12.—The French delegation to the conference on German affairs was amazed to learn today that the British government proposes and insists upon a reduction of the German reparations payments to about one-third the amount fixed by the London schedule of payments of May, 1921—that is, to cancel altogether the annual cash payments of 2,000,000,000 gold marks and to leave only the 26 per cent assessment on German exports.

The text of Premier Lloyd George's proposal, which forms part of the tenth point of the British memorandum, reads:

"Subject to acceptance by the German government of these guarantees it will be for the reparations commission to grant a moratorium in respect to all cash payments remaining due from Germany up to the 31st of December, 1922, and, further, the commission shall, as soon as possible, fix the annual payments in cash in respect to all peace treaty charges for the succeeding period at such an amount, not exceeding 26 per cent of the value of German exports, as they may find to be proper, with a view to the early flotation of a loan by the German government, the major portion of which shall be devoted to the payment of reparations."

Conference at Standstill.

M. Poincare had doubts regarding the interpretation to be placed on this article, and it was one of the points referred by the premiers to the committee of experts. Only at this afternoon's sitting of the experts' committee did M. De Lasteyrie, the French finance minister, obtain explanations from the British members that the plan was designed to reduce the total cash payments to a sum amounting to 26 per cent of the value of German exports, but leaving the possibility still of payments in kind. M. De Lasteyrie is understood to have informed the committee there was not the least chance of the French government accepting such an idea or seriously considering it.

Consequently the negotiations between the French and British are at a standstill. The members of the French delegation were greatly surprised that Mr. Lloyd George should send word to M. Poincare that he was leaving London over Sunday, thus causing the loss of one day when only two remain before the expiration of the date on which the next German payment is due under the "partial moratorium" now in operation.

Italians With French.

Premier Theunis of Belgium and his foreign minister, M. Jaspar, called on M. Poincare late this afternoon to discuss the situation, and tomorrow there will be a meeting, without Mr. Lloyd George, of M. Poincare, M. Theunis and Signor Schanzer, the Italian foreign minister.

The Italian delegation shares the French view completely: the Belgians less so because Belgian interests in reparations are protected by priorities.

"BITTERNESS" DENIED.

Semi-Official Statement Says Premiers Are Friendly.

PARIS, August 12.—A semi-official announcement that no definite agreement had been reached between Premier Poincare and Lloyd George at the London conference was issued this afternoon. It seems the announcement was called forth by the criticism heard this morning of Premier Poincare as having followed his predecessor's example and "given way before Mr. Lloyd George's persistence."

The announcement begins by stating that reports which had been printed to the effect that the conversations between the British and French premiers were marked by passionate bitterness are absolutely unfounded and says that, on the contrary, they were "perfectly courteous and friendly." It then maintains at some length that M. Poincare has in no way modified his proposals.

COX ARRIVES AT VIENNA.

VIENNA, August 12.—Former Gov. James M. Cox of Ohio, democratic nominee for President in 1920, arrived here today on a tour of study of central European conditions. He will be received by the chancellor and other officials before his departure. He will leave Vienna for Prague and Berlin soon.

"BOOZE POWDERS" SOLD BY GERMANS DECLARED FRAUDS

Home brewers and anti-Volsteadians, beware the "booze powder," is the warning sent broadcast by the Post Office Department in a recent circular. For stemming a tide of "dehydrated" alcoholic beverages of reminiscent names is a steady job of the fraud section of the department.

Using the reputation of German chemists certain German concerns have distributed hundreds of thousands of circulars in the United States, offering for "one dollar only" Rhine wine, Moselle, Sherry, port, Bordeaux, burgundy, tokay, Munich beer, Pilsener, porter, ale, etc., in a dried form, says the Post Office Department. From the powder a gallon or two of the beverage indicated on the package can be made, the spurious circulars claim.

Despite the issuance of fraud warnings and anti-fraud orders, many people are still sending money to these German concerns, only to have the money returned to them by the Post Office Department. If these powders contained alcohol, their importation would be prohibited, and since they do not have the latent possibilities advertised they violated the mail fraud statutes.

A significant requirement, adds the department warning, is that every advertising circular insists on payment being made in American currency.

TARIFF TO PASS SENATE SATURDAY UNDER VOTE PLAN

Debate on Committee Amendments to End Tuesday and on Others Thursday.

The administration tariff bill will be brought to a final vote in the Senate next Saturday, August 19, under a unanimous consent agreement entered into late yesterday.

Passage of the measure was regarded by senators generally as a foregone conclusion. At least three democratic amendments then undisposed of, and at not later than 10 p.m. Thursday it will vote without further debate on all pending individual amendments.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Senate, beginning at not later than 4 p.m. Tuesday, will proceed to vote without further debate on all committee amendments then undisposed of, and at not later than 10 p.m. Thursday it will vote without further debate on all pending individual amendments.

Speeches Cut to Ten Minutes.

After such amendments have been disposed of, the bill will be reported to the Senate from the committee of the whole and reserved individual amendments then will be taken up, but no senator will be permitted to speak more than once nor longer than ten minutes upon any amendment.

All debate will end at 4 p.m. next Saturday and then the bill will be put upon the parliamentary stages leading to a final vote before adjournment. Thus the measure will be disposed of exactly four months from the day on which its consideration was begun on April 29, and the Senate will have set a new long distance record for disposition of a tariff measure.

Lenroot Agrees to Date.

The date agreed upon for a vote is that first suggested last week by Senator Simmons of North Carolina, democratic leader in the tariff fight. Chairman McCumber of the finance committee proposed that August 15 be agreed upon, and there was a compromise on August 17, but at that time Senator Lenroot, republican, Wisconsin, objected to any date because the "flexible" and "scientific" tariff proposals and duties on hides and sugar remained undisposed of, with these highly controverted subjects out of the way, Mr. Lenroot joined with other republican leaders yesterday in arranging for a final vote.

After the bill is passed by the Senate it will be sent back to the House, where the original Fordney measure was approved more than a year ago. A conference between the Senate and House will then be in order, and Chairman McCumber hopes to have the conferees begin their work early in the week following final Senate action.

Conference Task Difficult.

The conference will face a long and difficult task. One of the big issues to be settled is whether the House American valuation plan is to give way to the Senate foreign valuation basis of assessing tariff duties. The "flexible" and "scientific" tariff plans also will be subjects in dispute. In addition there will be something like 1,000 actual tariff rates in controversy.

There has been some cloakroom gossip, referred to several times in the Senate floor recently by democratic opponents of the bill, that the tariff would die in conference. Senator McCumber and other republican leaders hope, however, to get the measure passed.

STAINED SHIRT LATEST CLUE IN M'BRIDE MURDER

Three Dark Men Sought on Evidence Obtained at D Street Store.

SUPPOSED INDIAN LIKELY PLOT VICTIM

Motive Seen in Fear of Exposure in Oil Deal—Wore \$2,000 Ring.

Headquarters detectives late last night have been furnished with three outstanding facts which are considered as likely to have an important bearing on the murder of Barney A. McBride, wealthy Oklahoma oil operator, whose knife-backed body was found on a road in Prince Georges county last Thursday.

These three discoveries, which are only the most important of a number of others, are:

- (1) Wednesday night, when McBride is believed to have been slain, a man wearing blood-stained clothing appeared at a D street haberdasher's and purchased a shirt, leaving one saturated with blood.
- (2) McBride had been in the habit of wearing a diamond ring valued at \$2,000, which was not found on the body or in his effects at the D street boarding house he used as a residence.
- (3) McBride occupied a position in the affairs of Oklahoma which might have made enemies for him in either the oil or Indian factions, which have virtually been at war for years.

Thinks Dead Man Indian.

Despite the fact that the police claim McBride was an Irishman, and had no Indian blood in his veins, E. J. Hamilton, a chief of the Blackfoot tribe in Oklahoma, living here at 318 C street northwest, was positive the slain was a member of either the Seminole or Saxon Fox tribes. Not only did Hamilton declare the characteristics of the dead man indicated McBride was an Indian, but he added that he had talked to him back in 1916 and that McBride had then told him he was part Indian and here on business for his tribe.

James I. Coffey, a Chippewa chief, living here at 234 3d street northwest, who also viewed the body at the request of a representative of The Star, declared that he believed McBride was part Indian, and immediately recognized him as a person he had seen before. Careful thought, however, failed to bring to his memory the place of his meeting with the murdered man.

Both of these Indians are in Washington as the official representatives of large numbers of their tribes in Oklahoma. They are paid salaries by the federal government and are well known at the Indian affairs bureau. In addition to them, Thomas G. Bishop, an Indian from the state of Washington, who just returned from Muskogee, McBride's home, also recognized the victim, but only by name.

See Murder Motive.

Bishop and Hamilton advanced the theory that McBride had been slain because he had come here to expose true conditions that exist between "the interests" and the Indians. This would not be the first time such a thing had occurred, Bishop said.

In 1897, he declared, Peter Stan-up, an Indian, was killed in the state of Washington because he had made arrangements to expose plots whereby the Indians were to be fleeced out of their property. Indian "stood pigeons" of the "interests," he continued, had gotten Stan-up intoxicated and then thrown him into a river, drowning him.

Opposed to this theory, however, is the fact that McBride himself was a heavy owner of oil lands, from which he had derived sufficient money to keep him in ease. In addition, The Star learned last night that the man was bitterly opposed to radicalism of any sort.

Upon the death of his Indian wife McBride not only inherited an interest in her lands, but became the trustee of the remainder, which became the property of his step-daughter, Miss Ellen Deer. This property he leased for \$127,000 and turned all of the royalties from them over to the Indian affairs bureau to invest them in the tribe's hands. His affiliation with the Indian office here would indicate that he is not so bitterly opposed to the oil interests.

Bloody Shirt Clue.

The bloody shirt clue was obtained in a canvass of certain tailor shops to ascertain if any person had left a blood-stained suit to be cleaned. At the shop of Morris Berman, 12th street near E. Mrs. Charles Hughes and her husband, living at 1007 H street northwest, told the following story:

Last Wednesday night they were visiting a haberdasher at 925 F street northwest which is also maintained by Berman. Between 9:30 and 10 o'clock three men, all dark complexioned, appeared. One of them, covered with blood, his entire

(Continued on Page 2, Column 2.)